

Why We Don't Want AT&T's Cell Tower at 1290 Grand Avenue

Technology and progress are inevitable, and no one wants to stand in the way of better service and telecommunications for the residents of Ojai. Yet hundreds of residents of our city strongly oppose the AT&T cell tower proposed within city limits at 1290 Grand Avenue. Contractors, doctors, teachers, lawyers, nurses – we are working people who use technology every day. We're not irrational about technology, so here's why we are opposed to the AT&T cell tower at Grand Avenue and why ***we think you should oppose it too.***

- 1. It's not necessary.** Despite the fact that the application process *requires* it, AT&T has shown no evidence that there is a need for a cell tower located in this or any other residential neighborhood in Ojai. There's no record of service complaints, and residents report satisfactory cell phone service. All the available evidence says we don't need a cell tower here.
- 2. It will be located in the middle of a residential neighborhood.** That's right, in the middle of a residential neighborhood. In a church parking lot. With houses all around it. It will be in people's backyards. In violation of the city's guidelines.
- 3. When it's built, it will be directly over a nursery school.** Assuming, that is, that the school survives; parents may find a new school. No matter what your personal beliefs about the safety of having a high power cell tower radiating mere feet from you, many parents of young children won't take chances.
- 4. It will be 65 feet tall (or 6½ stories), and violate Ojai's height restrictions.** You won't have to look hard to see this tower. It will be taller than almost everything else in Ojai. Think of the downtown bell tower next door to you, but radiating cell phone signals.
- 5. No alternate sites have been proposed or considered.** Again, even though the application process requires it, AT&T has submitted no alternatives to this site. So how did they decide that this little plot of land in the middle of families should host their tower? It's important that they explain because....
- 6. There are better and more appropriate sites.** By our current count, there are at least fourteen (that's right – 14) other sites that could serve as well or better, if AT&T ever considered them. In fact, several owners of open agricultural land nearby have actually *offered* to host the tower.

7. **It will hurt the “viewshed.”** In other words, it will be plain ugly. We Ojaians don’t live here because we like ugly. We protect our beautiful city. This tower will be out of scale with the neighborhood, and the city. It will intrude into almost every eastern view. AT&T says they will disguise it as a tree. *That’s like putting a lumberjack in a tutu and calling him a ballerina.* That’s never worked before and it won’t work here.
8. **They will cut down mature trees to build it.** In an area that is mostly open land, the tower is planned to be near one of the few stands of mature trees. To build it, they will cut down one or more of the trees. Does that make sense to you? Not to us either. What’s that refrain? “Ojai is the city where we pave around trees.” We don’t cut down real trees to build fake trees.
9. **It won’t stop there.** If AT&T can force a cell tower into an unwilling residential neighborhood without ever meeting the application requirements, then they can force their way anywhere. And then so can Verizon, or T-Mobile, or anyone else.

What can we do? The Ojai Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the AT&T cell tower application at their special meeting on **Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 6 p.m.** at Sarzotti Boyd Recreation Center, 510 Park Road, Ojai.

Speak out. The public hearing will provide the Commission with the views of the public and the residents of Ojai. If you don’t want to speak; just being there will help. If you agree that cell towers don’t belong where they’re not needed, help us make a complete record of all the reasons why ***this tower is a bad idea and bad for Ojai.***

Write. If you can’t attend the hearing, we still need your voice. Write to the Planning Commission before March 26th, and ask that your letter be included in the record for the AT&T cell tower application. Write to them at:

Ojai Planning Commission
Ojai City Hall
401 S. Ventura Street
PO Box 1570
Ojai, CA 93024



Better still, do both. Write now; come show your support on March 26th.